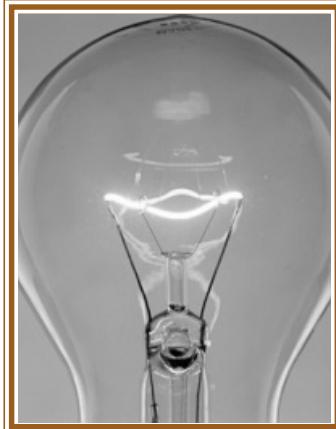


A New Partner in the Quest for Energy Efficiency

By: Toral Jha & Leslie Williams

As part of a county facility-wide effort to reduce waste and prevent pollution, the Department is working with Wisconsin Focus on Energy to identify energy conservation opportunities at five County Park buildings, the Exposition Center Arena and Forum, the ice arenas and the Materials Recycling Facility.

What is Wisconsin Focus on Energy? As part of the 1999 State budget bill, a law was passed which added a new fee to all Wisconsin electric bills. Also, all the energy conservation programs that were initiated by utility companies were phased out. The state is now offering these services on a privatized basis under the umbrella Wisconsin Focus on Energy. This organization provides services to homeowners, commercial or industrial facility owners, and municipal governments. Wisconsin Focus on Energy can also



access information regarding environmental issues and make building owners aware of the latest conservation technologies.

Wisconsin Focus on Energy will develop recommendations for our facilities such as replacing lighting or upgrading heating and air conditioning systems. They will also estimate the cost of improvements and analyze the payback time given our present energy use. Their next task

will be to assist in project design and identifying funding options. One of the benefits of using these state-sponsored services is having an objective third party advise us as other contractors implement these energy conservation projects. We hope to be making the recommended improvements to facilities in 2003.

In addition to the energy assessments, we are also conducting waste assessments. Department staff are looking at solid waste and recycling practices and issues as well as hazardous waste minimization and disposal efforts at each park. A report including observations, recommendations and a listing of resources will be prepared for each location. This effort is intended to support and im-

prove current solid and hazardous waste practices in the Department.

Look for future newsletter updates on energy and waste conservation efforts. ■

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